Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016 | High 24°C/Low 17°C Sunny

Russian rocket headed for Canadian Arctic (for real) metroNEWS

The rainbow flag raising ceremony Tuesday was part of the first-ever pride month declaration at Toronto City Hall.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

BIGGEST PRIDE EVER

Month-long celebration takes issues beyond LGBTQ metroNEWS

Toronto's vexing underground

CRITICISM

New PATH system proposal is safe, sterile, uninspired

Jason Logan
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Metro | Toronto

What a fumble.

I can't imagine a fresher, more satisfying challenge for a designer or planner than to untangle Toronto's underground warren that is the PATH. Who doesn't want to make the underground commuter's trip a little more satisfying?

Not this committee, apparently.

A 39-page "strategy and concept presentation document" from international transport consultancy business Steer Davies Gleave landed on my desk Tuesday. The firm was hired by the financial district's BIA to develop a new plan for navigating our long-beleaguered and just-plain-confusing downtown underground. They had a chance to make a bold move. Instead, we got a proposal that's safe, sterile and totally uninspired.

All right, there are a couple of good, practical ideas here. The consultants suggest dividing the path signage into two groups, with main routes that lead straight to major hubs, and secondary routes that take a few more twists and turns. New signs will tell you how long will take you to walk to the major destinations (that seems smart), and maps will let you situate yourself and plan your route.

Good wayfinding cuts through our sign-saturated culture to direct, advise and suggest — without a lot of talk. Good wayfinding is intuitive, logical and hierarchical. It has a bold voice that makes the user feel like they are in good hands. Wayfinding that is too quiet gets lost in the clutter; wayfinding that gets too fancy can confuse or irritate the user. But great wayfinding takes all these expectations and goes a step further. Look at New York, London or Paris' subway systems, which get you around while articulating an identity and voice for their respective cities. Bristol, England's Legible City wayfinding project — one of the best in the world — even seamlessly integrates art into a good system for helping you get around. And, the University of Technology at Sidney has painted floors that direct you to your destination almost intuitively.

A good map and a good set of paths can be transcendent. Toronto's new PATH plan, however, is best left as the path not taken. We can find a better way.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NAVIGATING THE NETWORK P. 6

TRUDEAU'S CABINET | Fisheries minister steps down due to 'addictions issues' | metroNEWS

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, June 1, 2016

ASSISTED DYING BILL HEADS TO SENATE
The bill on assisted dying has passed the House of Commons and is headed to the Senate. The bill is not expected to pass by Monday, the day the ban on assisted suicide is formally lifted. **CANADA**

Female firefighters top class

GENDER BARRIERS

Anti-women mentality in job has been 'phased out'

Katherine Shirriff, right, and Whytney Hooker are two of the three female firefighters who graduated at the top of their class. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Katherine Shirriff TORSTAR

Whytney Hooker TORSTAR

Toronto Fire Services (TFS) made history this month when, for the first time on record, the top three students in its graduating class were women.

It's indicative of a growing trend. Not only are more women pursuing a career in firefighting, they're also finding places at the top of the ladder in roles such as divisional and deputy chief.

Whytney Hooker finished first in the class. Before she began getting serious about firefighting, she owned a painting company and worked for the city.

"I knew at about 13 that I wanted to work in emergency services, but it took until I was about 25 for me to actually pursue it," the 30-year-old said.

Hooker said she wasn't sure if she would be strong enough to do the work, but support from friends and family helped her follow her dream. Often that encouragement came from men, even the guys in her class.

"I think that there's a total change in the generation that's coming in for firefighting, and the mentality that women shouldn't be here has more or less been phased out," she said.

According to Scott Eyers, who leads the TFS training department, drastic change has come to firefighting even over the course of his career, starting with the most basic — a move from using the term "fireman" to "firefighter" — to taking on more systemic problems.

"For many years, firefighting was pretty white, Anglo-Saxon and male-dominated," he said. "There's no doubt about it: In the early '90s this was a tough job, a tough environment for women."

Eyers estimates that in the past women made up only five per cent of the force, but since 2013 that's jumped to between 15 per cent and 20 per cent. TFS is reaping the rewards.

"Sometimes when they go to a call people are more at ease, especially if it's a medical call and it's a woman who needs help," he said.

Katherine Shirriff finished second in the class — just half a mark below Hooker and narrowly beat out graduate No. 3, Annemieke Struyk.

Shirriff said one of the best parts of the job is working alongside others who are helping her get used to her new role.

"The team is like a second family. They're your brothers and sisters," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PUBLIC SAFETY

TTC fires guard found at fault for open subway door: Union

An open door as the subway passes along the Bloor viaduct. YOUTUBE/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The TTC employee deemed responsible for an incident that caused the doors of a moving subway to swing open has been fired, according to the union representing transit workers.

The incident occurred around 6 p.m. last Friday, and video taken by a transit rider surfaced online a few hours later. The footage showed the doors of the train gaping open as it passed over the Bloor Viaduct on the TTC's Line 2.

Bob Kinnear, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113, said that the guard of the train was let go Monday night.

Kinnear acknowledged the incident was serious but said he wanted the TTC to release the communications the transit control centre sent to the train's crew before he made any conclusion about who was at fault.

"I know that there's immense pressure on subway operators and guards to keep service moving, so we need to hear that audio of communication from transit control to the operating crew to see if there was any deficiencies in that communication," Kinnear said.

TTC spokesman Brad Ross said he couldn't confirm whether the guard had been fired because it was a personnel matter.

Ross said the commission determined human error was to blame because the subway's safety systems were found to be working properly. TTC trains are equipped with a fail-safe mechanism that prevents them from moving if a door remains open. Procedure dictates that if the doors can't be closed properly, the train guard is supposed to take the doors offline and close, lock and barricade them. Passengers are also supposed to be evacuated from the car.

Speaking at a board meeting Tuesday, the TTC's chief operating officer said the door initially stayed open because one of the runners that allows it to slide open and closed had been damaged. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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A participant in the 2015 Toronto Pride Parade. This year's event boasts an entire month of programming and events.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Festival broadens LGBTQ discussion

Metro celebrates PRIDE MONTH

Mental health, human rights critical issues

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Pride Toronto's new month-long schedule will give the festival the chance to branch out, organizers say, and broaden the discussion beyond LGBTQ issues to discuss matters of race, human rights and mental health.

For the first time in its 35-year history, Pride Toronto will feature 33 days of programming and dialogue on issues of belonging, acceptance and inclusion — topics that remain as critical today as when the festival began, said Mathieu Chantelois, Pride Toronto's executive director.

"It's still a sad reality even in 2016," he said. "I've been going to so many funerals of trans folks that decided to kill themselves or were trans bashed in the past.

"People are getting married on Friday and by Monday they've lost their jobs. Every week there are kids knocking on our door."

Chantelois said discussions of trans rights — and human rights more broadly — will feature prominently throughout the month. The topic is timely, Chantelois said, noting the federal government recently introduced a bill on transgender rights that's yet to be voted into a law.

> We want everybody to be able to see the world through their queer eyes.
> Mathieu Chantelois

The topic of gender-neutral bathrooms is also hanging in the air, he added.

Then there's the issue of newcomers. Chantelois said Canada has done a "commendable job" of welcoming Syrian refugees, but they come from a part of the world where "it's really hard to be queer and be accepted."

"To show them that it's actually OK to be gay is still a real challenge," he said.

In past Prides, dozens of important events would be squeezed in the same day, making it difficult for issues to shine or for participants to check them all out, said Chantelois.

Having more time will allow for more partnerships with local LGBTQ groups and cultural institutions such as the AGO, the ROM, Luminato Festival and the Harbourfront Centre.

"We want everybody to be able to see the world through their queer eyes," Chantelois said. "That's the beginning of a vision for where we want to go for the next 35 years."

ACTIVISM

Young people share passion for diversity

This Wednesday, Mitra Sen will teach her class at Henry Kelsey Senior Public School in Scarborough underneath a tree.

"There's just a sense of peace that you can only feel under the shade of a tree," she said.

It's a symbolic approach to a 10-year-old tradition she helped begin in Toronto. Since 2006, every June 1 in the city is Peace Tree Day, a celebration aimed at empowering young people to share their passion for peace and diversity.

In founding Peace Tree Day International, Sen was inspired by the existence of other festivals of light such as Diwali, Christmas and Hanukkah. Just like different colours of lights are used to create beautiful decorations, the varieties of faith and culture represent the "beauty of diversity in a peaceful coexistence," she said.

With conflicts flaring in Syria and elsewhere around the globe, Sen said the message of Peace Tree Day is more important than ever.

"It's very concerning to see the rise in global conflicts today," she said.

On Peace Tree Day, youth are encouraged to create peace symbols — a dove, an elephant, moon and star, a cross, a Hindu Om, a Buddhist wheel or an Easter egg depending on their background — and decorate a tree with them.

Participants celebrate Peace Tree Day last year in Toronto.
CONTRIBUTED

Other cities across Canada and throughout the world have adopted the Peace Tree Day tradition, turning it into a fundraiser to support less fortunate kids.

The exercise not only allows kids to learn about each other and their backgrounds, it also serves as a bonding experience, said Sen.

"Every tree we've decorated makes people feel welcome and respected," she said, noting they've staged tree decorations at city hall and in different venues across the city.

"I see that tree as a sign that we all grew from the same roots before branching out."
GILBERT NGABO/METRO

COURTS

Montreal man facing new terror charges

More than two months since he allegedly attacked three members of the Canadian Forces at a Toronto recruitment centre, Ayanle Hassan Ali is now facing a slew of new terrorism-related charges, setting the stage for what could be a precedent-setting test of Canada's terrorism legislation.

Ayanle Hassan Ali THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ali, a 27-year-old Montreal native, yelled out "Allah told me to come here and kill people" in the midst of the alleged March 14 attack, said Toronto police chief Mark Saunders.

Following a psychiatric assessment, Ali was found unfit to stand trial "due to the ongoing psychotic symptoms of a major mental illness," according to a statement from his lawyer, Maureen Addie. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW WAY TO NAVIGATE THE PATH

Getting lost in Toronto's labyrinth of underground shops and shortcuts is almost a rite of passage, but the folks at the Toronto Financial District BIA are trying to change that. They unveiled a new concept map Tuesday to help you find your way through the network. The map will be piloted this summer, and PATH's entire wayfinding system will be revamped by 2018.

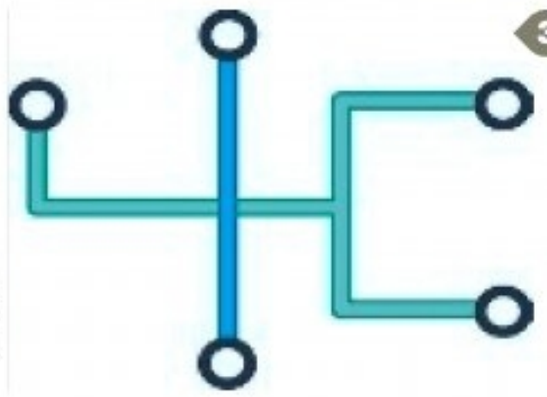
May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Branching out 1

Looking for a particular place? Branch routes will lead to specific destinations, like the Royal York Hotel. They will also be for indirect routes with lots of twists and turns, probably best left to the experienced user. CONTRIBUTED

Counting down 2

The routes will be identified on colour-coded signs. The signs will also show how many minutes away major destinations are by foot, helpful for those of us who are always running late. CONTRIBUTED



3 Making the connection

Connector routes are continuous paths that will help people find their way through the entire network, from Osgoode Station to Union Station or Metro Hall to King. CONTRIBUTED

Stuck in the '80s 4

The classic PATH signs with their '80s logo will still be there, as will other patchwork signage. The new system is supposed to be one interconnected ribbon that cuts through confusion, separating "connector" from "branch routes." LIZ BEDDALL/METRO.

5 The big picture

Maps showing the entire network, including all branch and connector routes, exits, accessibility information, and spots where you can resurface, will also be posted at strategic locations throughout the PATH. CONTRIBUTED

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Province may look at Tragically Hip sales

RESALE PRICES

Attorney General says she wants to fix ticket situation

Ontario's attorney general says she's prepared to try and find out why so many Tragically Hip fans couldn't buy tickets for their summer concerts — unless they wanted to pay many times face value on resale sites.

Fans across the country complained the tickets were sold out almost instantly when they went on presale Monday.

Many rushed to social media to complain about exorbitant prices on secondary resale sites that climbed into the thousands of dollars.

The Tragically Hip announced last week that lead singer Gord Downie has terminal brain cancer and would embark on a brief summer tour in parts of Canada.

Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur says she sympathizes with fans who would have to pay such tremendous prices to see the band. She says the ministry needs to look at what is happening now with the resale prices and insists she wants to fix the situation.

Gord Downie GETTY IMAGES

Meilleur denies the province is to blame for scrapping a law that prevented primary sellers like Ticketmaster from owning resale sites like StubHub.

"The intent was to prevent this from happening," Meilleur told reporters. "And I'm very sorry for the (fans) of this group that they have to pay a great price to go to the concert."

While the public sale of Tragically Hip tickets doesn't begin until Friday, eager buyers already snapped up limited tickets offered during presale events Monday and Tuesday, but far more fans were left disappointed.

Some questioned how the tickets — which required buyers to enter a code to complete their purchase — could turn up for resale within minutes. Others lamented that concerts which were raising money for charity were being exploited by scalpers.

The Hip will play 15 shows across parts of the country during a month-long stretch from late July to August.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FINAL SHOW

The CBC reported Tuesday that it was interested in broadcasting the Tragically Hip's final concert.

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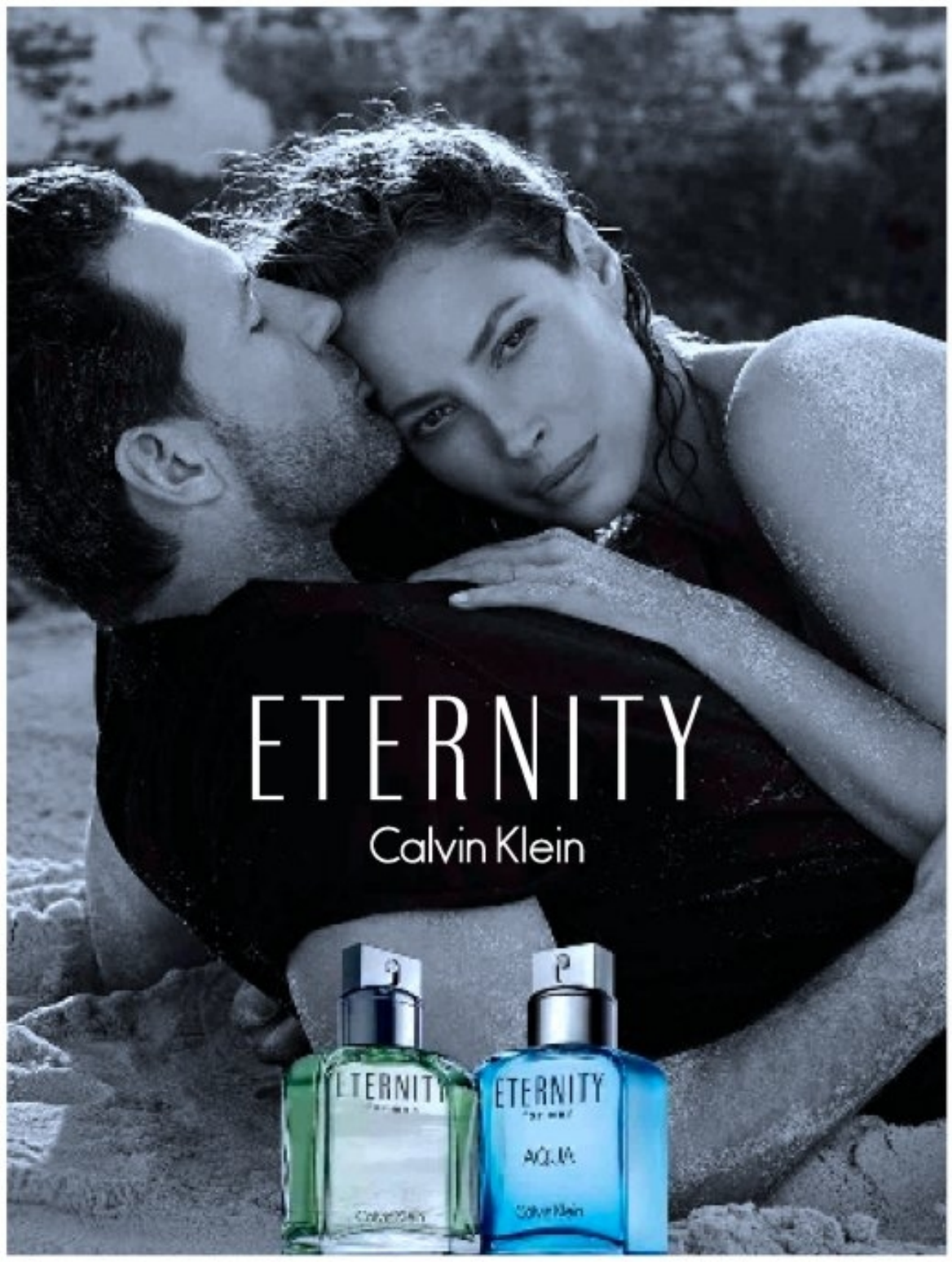

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Healing and heading home

Return to FORT MAC

Couple plans to be among first to re-enter city

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Heather Thomas isn't sure how it will feel to see her still-standing house when she returns to Fort McMurray later this week.

"Things surprise you. Sometimes I'm fine … but I have other days where I cry and I get angry," Thomas said. "But it's okay, because that's part of the healing nature of going through a traumatic event."

Heather and her husband, Russell, said they feel lucky because their house in downtown was left unscathed. Still, going back comes with challenges. For one, it'll require the family to split up yet again.

The couple plans to be two of the first to return to the city as part of a phased re-entry for the more than 90,000 people who evacuated Fort McMurray in early May, which starts Wednesday.

But because of air quality concerns and the lack of supplies in the city, their two sons — one of whom has asthma — will stay back in Edmonton.

Heather will also head back south after retrieving her car, leaving Russell to get the house ready for the family's eventual return.

The family was first separated by the wildfire about one month ago: The morning of May 3 saw them on opposite sides of town — and as a result, forced to flee in opposite directions.

Russell, an artist, headed south that morning, to teach a painting workshop in Anzac.

"The sky was blue, the day looked perfect," he said.

Meanwhile, Heather welcomed a client at her home office in downtown Fort McMurray.

Her first indication of trouble was when her client's cellphone rang. And rang again. And rang a third time.

"So she checked her phone — and she leapt off the table and ran out of the house," Heather said.

That's when she looked outside and saw the huge clouds of smoke billowing over a hill.

Heather picked up her youngest son from school. Luckily, her oldest had stayed home sick that day, or would have been on the other side of the city.

Meanwhile, about 25 minutes away, Russell's painting students were getting ready to paint. When he heard evacuations had begun, he raced north, but it was too late.

"I hit the firewall that was just to the left of the highway … And the flames were hundreds of feet high," he said.

Left with no choice, Russell drove south, ending up in Calgary. Heather, her two sons and the family hedgehog escaped north, and spent two nights going from work camp to work camp before eventually getting a flight out.

Two days after evacuating, they stepped off a plane in Calgary and into Russell's waiting arms.

This time will be different, Heather says, though she's looking forward to reuniting as a family back in Fort Mac.

"That's where my kids were born, that's where I live," she said. "It's home."

Russell and Heather Thomas pack their belongings before setting off on the long ride back home to Fort McMurray, Alta. AARON CHATHA/METRO

WILDFIRE

Notley to greet evacuees

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley plans to be in Fort McMurray on Wednesday to help residents turn the page on a devastating wildfire and says she will carry with her vivid memories of the early days of the disaster.

Scenes of families in trucks and cars reduced to a crawl as they tried to escape through curtains of flame below a sky raining embers.

The tour of destroyed neighbourhoods reduced to grey expanses of soot. It was the small things that jumped out.

"You go to a place where there was a house and what do you see on the ground? Nails. Piles and piles of nails," said Notley.

It has been a month since a roaring wildfire raced through Fort McMurray and cut the city in two, forcing the entire population of more than 80,000 to flee.

Notley recalled the first day, May 3, was focused on getting people out and nothing more. Since then, For more than two weeks straight, Notley's attention was solely on the fire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inside Fort McMurray: 'It feels pretty much the same'

This billboard is one of five that display inspiring messages for the people of Fort McMurray. COURTESY MARK DUROUCHER

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Though Mark Duroucher says it's been a bit weird being the only one driving down Fort McMurray's empty streets, the city finally feels like home again.

As some Fort McMurray residents re-enter the city to assess their homes on Wednesday, Duroucher has been at the forefront of restoring the community.

He said workers have diligently left trails of optimism for residents coming home for the first time, since flames forced them to leave on May 4.

"It feels pretty much the same — driving around you can't tell there was ever a natural disaster here," said Duroucher, who's a utility worker in town. "But a few neighbourhoods are hard to look at … It's something else."

Fort McMurray has come a long way — two weeks ago, the city looked like it was covered in a layer of dust, he explained.

"Everyone was wearing their masks. People weren't really sure and scared," Duroucher said.

"The smoke put a different tinge on the city, where everything looked darker and you never enjoyed going outside."

On top of ensuring essential services are available, crews have been cleaning streets, planting flower beds and installing five inspiring billboards, reading, 'Thank you for being resilient' and 'Together we will rebuild.'

"It's a lot better now," Duroucher said. "It's 18 degrees out, blue skies, it's sunny. I was just driving with my top off … it's just beautiful."

The province has set out phased re-entry plan, where all residents should be able to return to the city by Saturday on a volunteer basis. Duroucher said he's surprised to learn people could return so soon.

"I think that's because we have all of Canada and the world united behind us, combined with the efforts of everyone that's out here," he said. "There are homes levelled right to the ground, but then so many that are completely untouched. You can only attribute that to the very hard work of the firefighters and emergency personnel."

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Assisted suicide bill passes

The federal government's controversial bill on assisted dying sailed through the House of Commons on Tuesday, approved by a vote of 186-137.

"It's an historic day," Health Minister Jane Philpott said immediately following the vote, thanking MPs for passing a bill she said "will essentially transform end-of-life care options for Canadians."

Only four Liberal MPs — including Rob Oliphant, the chair of a special joint parliamentary committee that had recommended a much more permissive approach to assisted dying — voted against Bill C-14, as did most Conservatives, all New Democrat and Bloc Quebecois MPs and Green Leader Elizabeth May.

But the bill now heads into choppier waters in the Senate, where the government has less control over the agenda and many independent-minded senators are pushing for amendments.

It is virtually guaranteed the bill will not be passed by Monday, the day the ban on assisted dying is formally lifted in accordance with last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling.

"No, no, impossible," Sen. Claude Carignan, Conservative leader in the Senate.

Beverley McLachlin, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, says any public consternation over physician-assisted dying can't be attributed to a lack of awareness. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Senators are not dragging their feet; they've agreed to extend their sitting hours and have taken the usual step of inviting Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and Philpott to testify about the bill before the entire Senate on Wednesday.

However, they must still debate the bill at second reading, send it to committee to hear from some half a dozen witnesses, propose and consider possible amendments and debate and vote on the bill a final time.

Carignan said more than 40 Conservative senators want to speak during second reading debate alone and he expects "many amendments" will be proposed. Consequently, he said the bill can't be put to a final vote until the end of next week at the earliest, possibly sometime the following week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister leaves Liberal cabinet

POLITICS

Hunter Tootoo taking time 'to seek treatment for addiction'

Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo, citing "addiction issues," has resigned from the federal cabinet and is leaving the Liberal caucus.

Dominic LeBlanc, the government's House leader, will assume Tootoo's cabinet responsibilities.

A statement from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office says Tootoo is "taking time to seek treatment for addiction issues."

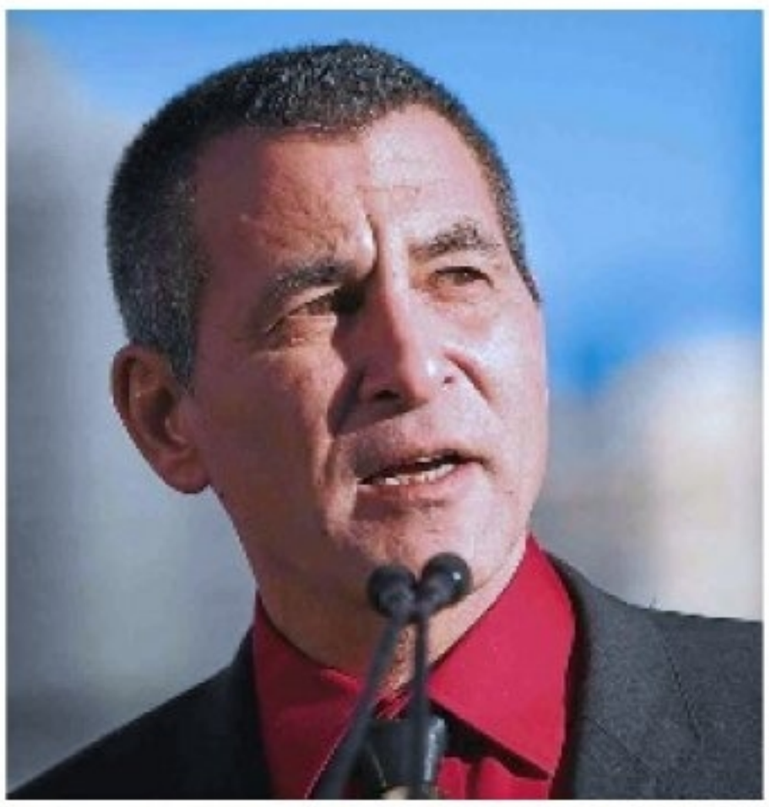
Tootoo, the first northerner to take on the role of fisheries minister, issued a brief statement saying he was stepping down in order not to distract from the important work of his colleagues.

Tootoo said he has "decided to seek treatment for addiction issues" and asked for "privacy at this time."

The nature of his addiction was not specified.

The announcement about Tootoo's troubles drew words of support from former Ontario premier Bob Rae, who tweeted: "Wish him well in his battle."

And Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler also took to Twitter to offer support for Tootoo on behalf of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in northern Ontario: "sending prayers and support to Hunter Tootoo as he seeks healing."



Fisheries Minister Hunter Tootoo has resigned from the federal cabinet and the Liberal caucus, a statement from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tootoo was born in Rankin Inlet in 1963 and immediately had to fight for his life.

"I was medevaced (airlifted) out," Tootoo said in an interview last year. "I was in an incubator for the first three months of my life, so I am told."

After overcoming this struggle, Tootoo went on to live in various parts of Canada, including Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan before making his way back to the North in the early 1990s.

The 52-year-old was first elected as the MLA for Iqaluit Centre in 1999, where he served for 14 years and was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly until 2013. He also held a number of cabinet positions in the territorial government.

In November, a month after Tootoo defeated former Conservative cabinet minister Leona Aglukkaq to claim the federal riding of Nunavut, he said he hoped to transfer his political experience to a national scale.

"I think that it is going to be very beneficial to me as we move forward," he said,

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ENVIRONMENT

Toxic rocket on an arc to Arctic

Environmentalists are angry that a Russian rocket stage potentially carrying highly toxic chemicals is expected to splash down this weekend in a biodiversity hotspot in the Canadian Arctic.

"The idea of dropping a missile full of toxic chemicals in the Arctic waters off Baffin Island is just as preposterous as drilling for oil there," Greenpeace Arctic campaigner Alex Speers-Roesch said Tuesday.

"Dumping these chemicals from a ship would be a clear violation of international and Canadian law, and it is no more acceptable when it is dumped from the air."

An international aviation authority has issued a notice warning that debris from a Russian rocket launch is slated to fall Saturday into Baffin Bay. That's outside Canada's territorial waters but inside an economic zone the country partially controls.

The space debris is a stage from a rocket set off under Russia's Rokot program, a for-profit service that launches commercial satellites, said Michael Byers, a professor of international law and an Arctic expert at UBC.

Byers said Russia is following the rules by informing aviation authorities of the launch and the splashdown. The stage is falling over a remote stretch of water between Greenland and the southern tip of Ellesmere Island.

He notes Rokot uses repurposed Cold-War-era intercontinental ballistic missiles to launch satellites. Those missiles, the SS-19, use hydrazine for fuel.

HYDRAZINE

Hydrazine is known to be extremely toxic — so toxic that technicians working with it have to use pressurized hazmat suits.

The rocket stage is expected to come down in what is called the North Water Polynya, an 85,000-square-kilometre area of Arctic sea that naturally remains ice free year round.

The open water is a refuge for narwhal, beluga, walrus and bowhead whales. Its plankton-rich waters draw shoals of Arctic cod, providing food for an ecosystem that also supports seals, polar bears and millions of seabirds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sea route deaths rising

REFUGEE CRISIS

Estimated 880 dead this week a 'conservative' count: UN

The treacherous Mediterranean Sea crossing from Libya to Italy has claimed the lives of over 1,030 migrants in the last week, mostly as barely seaworthy smuggling boats foundered and sank despite calm seas and sunny skies, a migration agency said Tuesday, citing new accounts from survivors.

The staggering death toll foreshadows more disasters ahead in the next few months as the region gears up for its traditional summer-fall spike in human trafficking as the weather improves and the seas grow warmer. Aid officials said it also suggests that Libyan smuggling gangs are using even riskier tactics than before to profit from the torrent of those desperate to reach the safety or economic promise of Europe.

The jaw-dropping tally is only from shipwrecks that are known to authorities, who readily admit they simply do not know how many people are being cheated by smugglers, jammed into obviously unsuitable vessels and swallowed up by the vast waters of the southern Mediterranean.

A man and his daughter wait during a distribution of meals aboard the rescue ship Aquarius, on May 25, a day after a massive rescue operation of migrants and refugees off the Libyan coast. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Two Eritreans interviewed by The Associated Press — among the hundreds of shipwreck survivors brought to Italian ports —were haunted by the fact that so many women and children had been on their capsized boat and did not survive. They said they could still hear their cries.

"I started to cry when I saw the situation and when I found the ship without an engine. There were many women and children," said 21-year-old Filmon Selomon who plunged into the sea to save himself. "Water was coming in from everywhere."

> **There were many women and children.**
> Filmon Selomon

UN refugee spokesman William Spindler told reporters at a news conference in Geneva that this year is already proving to be "particularly deadly" on the Mediterranean, with some 2,510 lives lost compared to 1,855 in the same time span a year ago.

The International Organization for Migration said Tuesday that 62 people were confirmed dead and another 971 were missing and presumed dead in nine separate deadly emergencies since May 25 on the Libya-to-Italy sea route.

The UN refugee agency said Tuesday it had tallied at least 880 deaths on the Mediterranean over the last week. Spindler noted such estimates are an inexact science, and said his agency's figures tend to be "conservative."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI ZOO

Gorilla incident investigated

Police said Tuesday they were investigating the circumstances surrounding a 4-year-old boy entering a gorilla's exhibit at the Cincinnati Zoo and the animal being shot to death to protect the child. A federal investigation is also planned.

A federal inspection less than two months ago found no problems with the zoo's Gorilla World exhibit, but earlier zoo inspections reported issues including the potential danger to the public from a March incident involving wandering polar bears.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters' office said Cincinnati police are investigating what transpired with the death of the gorilla named Harambe on Saturday. Afterward, police will talk with prosecutors about whether charges are warranted, the office said.

Police said over the weekend that no charges were planned, but spokeswoman Tiffaney Hardy said Tuesday they are still gathering information. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, June 1, 2016

TIM QUERENGESSER ON ALBERTA'S RECKONING

Today marks the onset of a perfect storm the NDP government must weather. How it chooses to do this will tell us a lot about the Alberta you think you know

When people begin returning to Fort McMurray today, the natural reaction might be to see is as the end of a dark chapter — the most difficult times falling behind us — and to be thankful that so much human suffering has been balanced by so little loss of life.

This is all true. Today does mark the beginning of the end of fear and adrenaline for the residents of Fort McMurray. And we should be thankful.

But today also marks the onset of a perfect storm the Alberta government must weather. And how it chooses to do this will tell us whether the Alberta you think you know can stay that way for long.

The background: In its most recent provincial budget, tabled about a month before the wildfires, the Alberta government noted its largest ever drop in the revenues from oil royalties, thanks, of course, to the tumbling price of oil.

The drop was staggering, falling from $7.2 billion in 2014-15 to just $989 million in 2016, and it forced Alberta to revise its own recently created spending cap to allow it to borrow more money.

To give you an idea just how dire this was before the fire arrived, Alberta had already projected it would have to be loaned some $57.6 billion by the 2018-19 fiscal year — and it was already using borrowed money to pay for basics like teachers' and doctors' wages. Rather unprecedented in a province of plenty.

How will Alberta manage perhaps its nastiest downturn ever, without doing something different than before?

And, to add insult, the province's credit rating had already been downgraded several times.

The strategy to face this was the standard Albertan refrain: We won't introduce what other provinces rely on, like sales taxes; we'll wait for the future, when oil prices will surely rebound. To this the NDP government added the idea of stimulus: Let's build infrastructure and bolster the economy with construction jobs. To that end it announced more than $7 billion for things like roads and bridges.

The devastated neighbourhood of Abasand is shown in Fort McMurray. Thousands of evacuees are expected to return to the city today.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

But in the aftermath of the Fort McMurray wildfires, which were disturbingly symbolic in attacking the centre of Alberta oil production, a reckoning on that strategy is inescapable.

In mid-May the Conference Board of Canada estimated the wildfire would cost Alberta at least $985 million in real GDP in 2016. But Marie-Christine Bernard, who helped prepare the study, pointed out that the report came before the wildfire turned around and attacked oilsands work camps, forcing some 9,000 to evacuate and delaying oil production yet again. Bernard said the updated report, due in about two weeks, will adjust its lost-GDP estimate upward.

We ran the numbers and it could be by as much as another $400 million — meaning Alberta is set for a hit in excess of $1 billion.

Which brings us to the perfect storm. The question facing Rachel Notley's NDP government is stark: How will Alberta manage perhaps the nastiest downturn it has ever encountered, compounded by the Fort McMurray wildfires, without doing something far different than before?

Consider: Big pots of money are being spent, right now, to pay for evacuations and to rebuild Fort McMurray while oil production has been stunted and the price of oil is forecast to hover around $40 a barrel through 2016, before possibly climbing into the $50 region by 2017. For context, in 2015, when oil fell to $60 a barrel from its highs of more than $100, alarm bells were already being rung. The clock on when it needs to rebound to rescue Alberta's long-standing status quo has almost definitely struck midnight.

The reflexive answer from the left that usually pops up in tough times is increasing taxes. The reflexive response to increasing taxes from the right is to cut spending.

Politically speaking, the Alberta government can't afford to do either.

In early 2015, a Mainstreet Technologies poll, published by the Calgary Herald in the days before the provincial election, found that just 15 per cent of Alberta respondents were in favour of increasing taxes to offset falling oil revenues. More than 40 per cent said spending should be cut instead. And just nine per cent said a sales tax would be the best solution. (Alberta is alone in provincial Canada in not having a sales tax.)

Meanwhile, who would propose the idea of cutting spending in a time like this? Rebuilding Fort McMurray is a must. Spending is without doubt set to increase for many years ahead.

And so, whether it wants to or not, the Alberta you may think you know from your perch in Toronto, Winnipeg, Halifax or Vancouver, is doubtlessly set to change.

Really, the fires have only begun.

Tim Querengesser is the managing editor of Metro Edmonton.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Old guard of women's mags helping bring feminism into fashion

With only a tenuous tie to any concept of feminism, women's magazines have long been a safe haven for sexism, selling women an "idea of women" as supremely desirable, ornamental, domestic and rich.

That has made them like candy to me: an indulgence that's bad for my health. A flipbook of women I'll never be, but that some small part of me still aspires to: the sexiest, the most stylish. The perfect.

This tradition has not died, but it is being infiltrated, and even undermined.

Take Glamour magazine's series "Abortion in America: The Tipping Point," which promises to look at "what's next for activists on both sides" but features headlines that are clearly pro-choice. E.g., "I've Already Been 'Punished' For My Abortion," "Oklahoma Governor Sees Reasons, Vetoes Anti-Abortion Bill" and "Terrifying (and True) Facts About Violence Against Abortion Providers."

The Cut, ostensibly New York Magazine's lifestyle vertical, has lately been the home of feminist takes on everything from Rokudenashiko, the Japanese vagina artist, to how not to give women dating advice, to sexism in Hollywood. Refinery29, an online fashion/lifestyle magazine, was seemingly founded to serve hip young women willing to click on a #sexism link.

Then there's Cosmopolitan, which announced political coverage to great fanfare in 2014, a move that MSNBC attributed to "a high demand for conversations on women's political issues." Recently, Cosmo published a slam piece on Donald Trump's "'soft' misogyny" and a look at how Baylor University "Failed to Help Women Who Were Sexually Assaulted" with the subhead "This is a really big deal."

In Canada, Chatelaine has been shifting gears under editor-in-chief Lianne George, publishing feminist takes on Jian Ghomeshi (while shying away from the word "feminism"), a series of personal essays on women's relationships to their breasts, and regular dispatches on women's issues from columnist Rachel Giese. Even Flare magazine profiled the "Boss Babe" of Toronto's women-only taxi service DriveHer, amid stories of runway-inspired prom hair.

That doesn't mean women's mags aren't flogging the usual wares ("Get tight abs" "Wake up hotter!"). Nor that the whole package isn't still racialized (Caution: white women everywhere!) and classist.

But I do take heart in these small improvements. If Glamour cares this much about abortion (a fact that surprised me), that's clearly because it's listening to its readers. Branding yourself in line with the modern woman's identity requires adding a feminist spin.

I will take a side of "The gender pay gap sucks," then, with that slideshow of the season's best block heels, thank you very much.

metro
Your essential daily news

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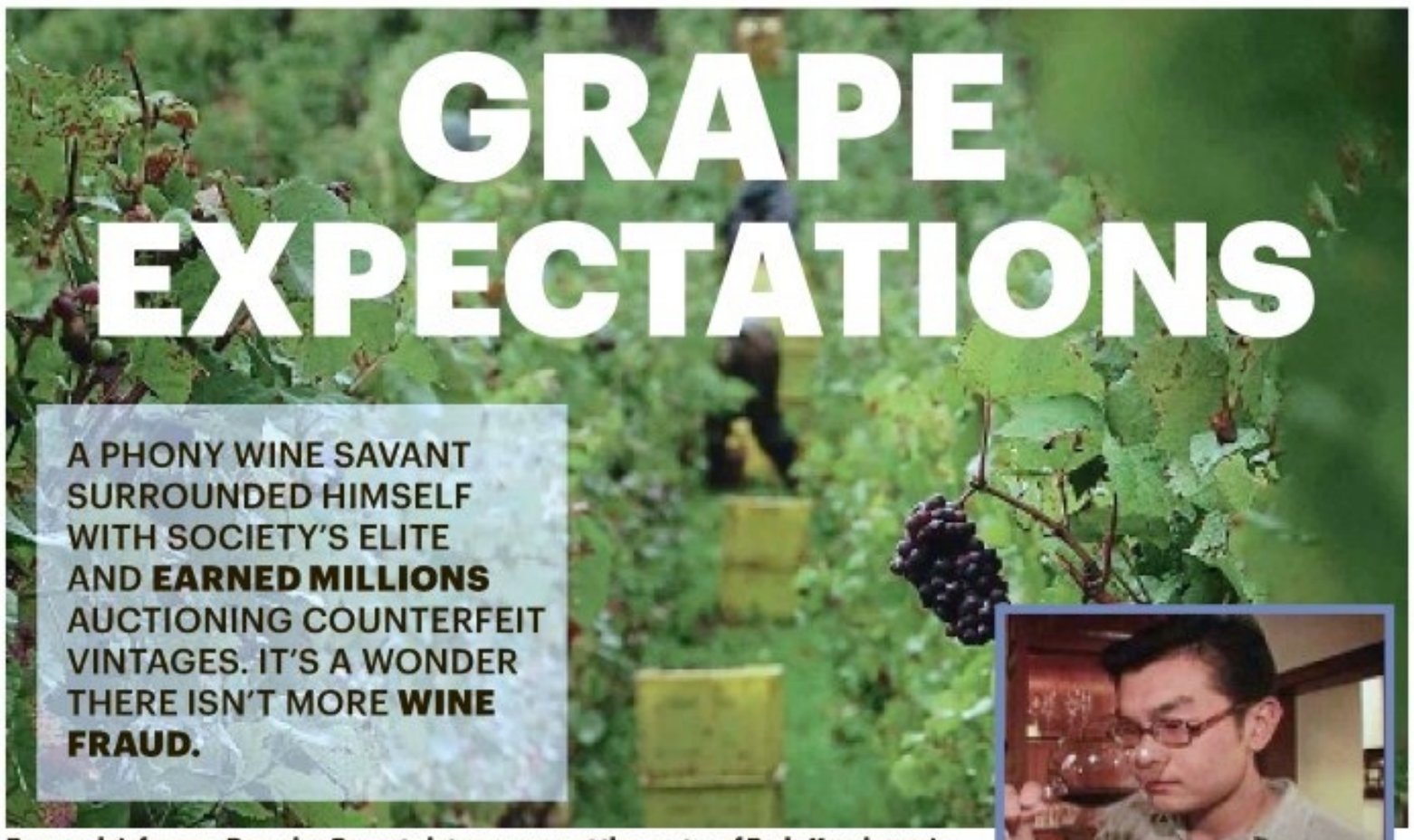
metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Poland's justice minister revived an effort to extradite Roman Polanski to the U.S., where he is wanted in a decades-old case involving sex with a minor.

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS



A PHONY WINE SAVANT SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH SOCIETY'S ELITE AND **EARNED MILLIONS** AUCTIONING COUNTERFEIT VINTAGES. IT'S A WONDER THERE ISN'T MORE **WINE FRAUD.**

Burgundy's famous Domaine Ponsot vintages were at the centre of Rudy Kurniawan's (seen inset) wine fraud scandal. COURTESY SOUR GRAPES

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

When one thinks of heist movies, they generally don't think of Beaujolais. Then again, with most of us unable to truly tell the difference between an expensive sip of Burgundy from the Puligny-Montrachet region of France and a swig of cheap vino from New Jersey, it's a wonder there isn't more wine fraud.

In the new film Sour Grapes, filmmakers Jerry Rothwell and Reuben Atlas uncovered the story of Rudy Kurniawan — a phony wine savant who was able to surround himself with society's elite and earn millions auctioning counterfeit vintages.

"Wine has its own language, and it's a strange language because it's about putting taste into words," explained Rothwell. "There's good and bad wine and there's got to be some way to define that and it's into that gap where Rudy jumps — this thing that's hard to pin down, subjective and very much about the context."

Context is everything when discussing the high-end world of wine collecting. As the film shows, Kurniawan was able to mimic the rarest vintages by cracking into high society circles. Billionaire Bill Koch even purchased about $4 million worth of Kurniawan's stock — which the infamous financier eventually found to be bogus.

"It's just been commodified into this thing for which incredible amounts of money change hands," said Rothwell of the runaway wine market at the turn of the millennium, when Kurniawan's con was at its height. "As we started to realize Rudy was going to be the mysterious centre of the film rather than the narrative voice, it would become a film that was about being conned and about vulnerability."

Surely, there is some cathartic pleasure in watching millionaires fall prey to a seemingly harmless hustler. But even as both filmmakers stated their aim was to "hold a finger up to sommeliers telling you why you ordered wrong," they also discovered the world of wine collection is more than just snobbery.

"Wine is a legitimate art form and collectors even have legitimacy," said Atlas. "You may disagree with the money they spend (but) the more I learned about the wine world, the more I felt sympathetic to everybody."

The Essentials of Wine Investment

Wine is no longer just for drinking. With the world's most expensive vintages worth thousands of dollars, collectors are increasingly investing in rare bottles. Here are three essential tips for wine collectors:

• **Educate Yourself:** Only a small percentage of world's wine makes up the most marketable investments. While the wines of Bordeaux and Burgundy command the highest price, get to learn the value of all vintages.

• **Price Factors:** Do the work to learn what affects the value of vino — like age and maturation, supply and demand and the price of vintages themselves.

• **Storage:** Although ideal wine storage hovers around 13 degrees Celsius, it's also important to understand such conditions as air quality, humidity, corkage and how to rack your bottles.

*For more information on wine investment, visit: wine-searcher.com (US prices according to wine-searcher.com) *prices last updated May 9*

WINE LIST

Domaine de la Romanee-Conti Romanee-Conti Grand Cru, Cote de Nuits, France
This blue-ribbon bottle has been called the perfect Burgundy and is considered the world's most sought after wine.
Average Price: $13,109

Egon Mueller-Scharzhof Scharzhofberger Riesling Mosel, Germany
Originating in a respected family-run vineyard, this intense German Riesling is increasing in popularity.
Average Price: $9,170

Domaine Leflaive Montrachet Grand Cru, Cote de Beaune, France
This biodynamic wine from one of France's most famous estates has a growing cycle based on moon phases and the position of the planets.
Average Price: $5,835

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

An addictive antidote to life's uncertainties

THE SHOW: The Wendy Williams Show (CBS)
THE MOMENT: "Ask Wendy"

Audience members lob questions at afternoon talk show host Wendy Williams. "My new husband invited my ex-boyfriend to visit," a gay man says. "Should I be worried?"

"Yes," Wendy replies flatly.

A woman asks, "My boyfriend's daughter lives with him. How can I get her out?"

"When he gives you a ring and you set a date, your opinion will count," Wendy answers.

Another woman says, "My boyfriend and I took a break. During the break he slept with his ex. Now she's pregnant..."

Wendy cuts her off: "This is not worth your trouble. Move along."

I'd never seen this show before and I can't believe the speed and certitude with which Wendy dispenses advice. In fact I can't believe how quickly Wendy talks period: So many words said so authoritatively in so little time it's breathtaking, or rather not breathtaking, since she talks without taking any breaths at all.

Her guests are the same. Before "Ask Wendy," Williams interviewed fashion guru Andre Leon Talley. In two minutes flat, they covered a new fashion doc, Will Smith's children ("Jaden is gender fluid!" Talley cried repeatedly), what's out of style ("Over-decorated nails, rudeness, and women on the street at noon who are dressed for pole dancing") and his podcast.

If you are plagued by uncertainty, this show is the antidote. Watch Williams, and for a precious hour, live in a world without doubt, where good-looking people who have all the answers tell them to you quickly. She's cocaine in human form.

Wendy Williams dispenses no-holds-barred advice to her audience with speed and certitude.
DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR OPERATION SMILE

> **Watch Williams, and for a precious hour, live in a world without doubt, where good-looking people who have all the answers tell them to you quickly.**

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news

Lowrider culture on display at Sante Fe exhibit

Nimble car, fantastic steering

VOLKSWAGEN CANADA

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF R

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.0L turbo four-cylinder
Power: 292 hp
Transmission: Six-speed DSG (or Six-speed manual)
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 10.4 city, 7.9 highway (DSG)
Price: Starts at $39,995, $43,410 as tested

LOVE IT

- Practical yet fun
- Very composed at all times
- Under the radar

LEAVE IT

- GTI is already so good
- Expensive for a VW
- Very dark interior

REVIEW

Golf R a truly great ride, manual or no

This is the first year the Golf R is available with an automatic transmission.

Driving a Volkswagen Golf R has always put you in a special club of "Save the Manuals" fanatics, so more than a couple enthusiasts melodramatically proclaimed that "this is the end" when VW announced that a six-speed DSG would become available in the hot hatch for the first time ever.

Fans liked the fact that this hot hatch used to be manual-only, because it felt like an exclusive club, but how does the R do with this new DSG? Is the hot hatch just as hot without three pedals?

The quick answer is that this six-speed DSG is probably the best dual clutch automatic transmission on the market right now, so any fears about an automatic neutering of the R and making it boring are completely unfounded.

The shifts are like rapid fire, and the DSG never gets confused and always seems to know what gear to be in. There's no weird shuddering at low speeds, and it's not shy about dropping down a gear to keep the engine in its sweet spot when you need more power. The automatic is just so good, it doesn't really take away from how fun the R feels and it will even get to to 96 km/h about 0.7 seconds faster than the manual can, even though the manual is 36 kilograms lighter.

Helping it hit those speeds is a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder with 292 horsepower. That may not seem like much in a world of 700-hp Hellcats, but in practice, you'll never find yourself wanting more. Getting up to highway speeds or juking around traffic in town, the R feels so much faster than its numbers suggest. It's a nimble car with fantastic steering.

When you first get into the R, it can feel a lot like a GTI, maybe a bit stiffer and slightly quicker. But switching into Race mode changes the car's personality entirely.

One complaint about the R in its regular driving mode was that it was too quiet. Well, race mode has your back.

All of a sudden, the R puts its mean face on, it's faster, it's more responsive, and has a growly sound to match. It's loud enough to make you smile, but isn't so loud that you feel like a teenaged idiot with a fart can.

The R starts at just over $39,995, which is a bargain for a car with this type of poise and performance, but loaded up, those numbers can quickly creep up, making it one of the more pricey VWs.

All in all, the GTI has always been a great car, and the R makes it even better.

It's well-rounded, refined, fun, practical, and it's just as happy ripping through twisty roads as it is just going to the grocery store. And this is still true, even with an automatic transmission.

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Google's sticky solution for pedestrians

SAFETY

Sticky patent filed

Google has patented a new sticky hood that is meant to improve pedestrian safety. The system is designed to have the pedestrian stick to the front end of the car in a collision, preventing them from flying away and being injured further. The patent notes that the worst injuries in pedestrian collisions often happen when the pedestrian is thrown from the vehicle, colliding with either objects or the road.

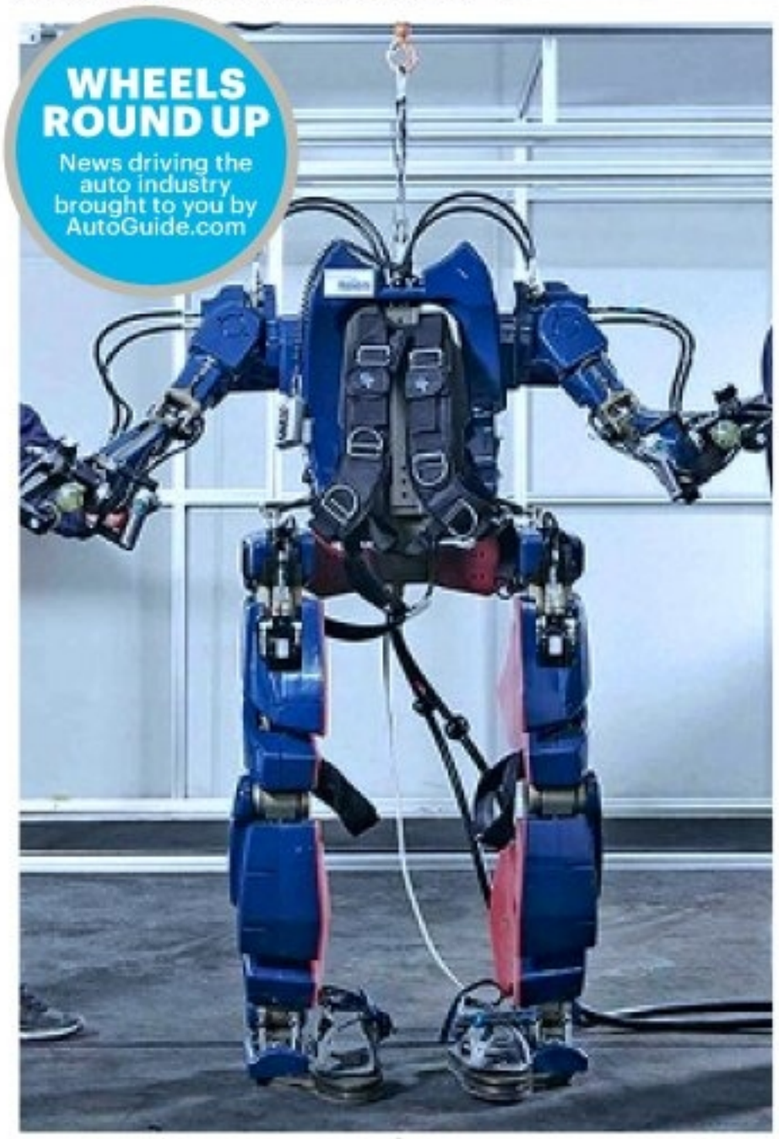
ZENITH COLLECTION

Rolls-Royce Phantom bids farewell

The Rolls-Royce Phantom is getting a final goodbye with the Phantom Zenith Collection. As promised, the British automaker has released details on the final special edition of the Rolls-Royce Phantom, as the open-top luxury car is being replaced with the new Rolls-Royce Dawn. The Zenith Collection will celebrate its history and is limited to 50 units.

WHEELS ROUND UP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com



FOR SALE

Hyundai builds 'Iron Man' suit

We all know Hyundai builds cars, but now the Korean automaker wants to get into the robot business. Hyundai has released photos of a "wearable robot" exoskeleton that it has developed, an invention the brand compares to the suit featured in the Iron Man movie franchise. "Hyundai Motor Group is developing a wearable robot because it is being targeted for commercialization," says a post that appeared on an official Hyundai blog. "Look into the future of wearable robotic mobility to get ahead." As demonstrated by a set of photos, the suit has a number of benefits including giving the wearer the ability to lift heavy objects, to help with walking for those who are disabled and for physical therapy purposes. Beyond those uses, Hyundai also said that this type of suit could be used in factories and in the military.

IN BRIEF

Volvo previews future tech-filled small car

Volvo has revealed a pair of new concept cars previewing how the brand's future small cars will look. Volvo calls them the 40 series concepts, both of which show how Volvo will move forward both in design terms and in technology. Both of the cars ride on the Compact Modular Architecture, a scalable platform that will underpin all of Volvo's small cars.

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Volkswagen

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5 THINGS THAT'LL WREAK HAVOC ON YOUR PAINT JOB

Cars are tough, but that colourful coating on the outside isn't as durable as you may think. Car paint is actually quite brittle and sensitive to the elements. Everyday things your car encounters can seriously damage your paint's finish if left untreated. Here's a quick list of what kind of things can screw up your paint and why. AUTOGUIDE.COM

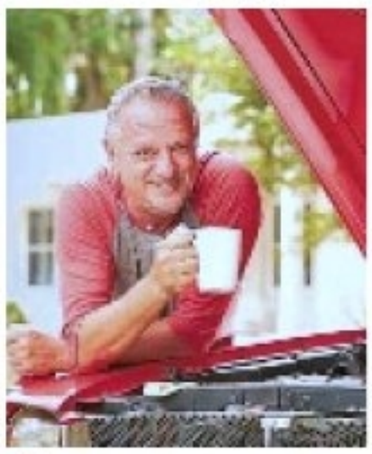
ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

1 Bugs

The sign of a true spring and summer road trip is to see some bug splatter on your car's windshield and bumper. Some of the acids in bugs can seriously eat away at your car's paint if left for too long. Acids found in the blood of insects can permanently damage your car, and need special attention. Most experts agree that lathering up the bug guts ASAP helps.

2 Eggs

Egging houses and cars on Halloween is just a harmless prank, right? Not when it hits your car! The whites and yolk of an egg are acidic and can eat away your paint's clear coat. It can also leave a nasty stain if it's baked in, and can go so far as to damage your base coat. The eggshells can also scratch your paint.



3 Drinks

Sometimes we leave our coffee or soda cups on the hood of our car while getting in. Take care not to spill that stuff, because there's some nasty, paint-eating stuff in both coffee and most soda. Coffee and cola are both acidic and both will damage and corrode your paint if left untreated.

4 Dust

Dust is very fine dirt and if one of your cheeky friends writes in it, they can seriously screw up and scratch your paint. Dust and pollen can leave scratches if you wipe it dry. A gentle car wash will help clear this dirt without damaging the paint, but if you do wipe it and leave a scratch you may need help from a detailer.

5 Silly string

Pranksters and frat kids love to mess with each other's rides, especially the nice ones, but foamy attacks from silly string and shaving cream can cause discolouration if left for a long time untreated. To remove it, make sure to rinse thoroughly so the foam can come off (if it's been caked on) and use a general car cleaner.

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How to maximize a car's resale value

ADVICE

'Take good care of your car,' auto expert advises

There's a lot to consider when buying a new car, but one thing that's easily overlooked is the car's resale value.

For people who don't anticipate owning the same car until it can't be driven any longer, they plan to either sell the car on the used car market, or trade it into a dealer when buying a new vehicle.

In both scenarios, the car's resale value will be a huge factor in how much money they get for the trade-in or sale, and maintaining a high resale value is something drivers can actually have a hand in.

Suburu is a good example of a brand that doesn't push large volume sales and maintains strong resale value. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Maintenance

"Take good care of your car," said Laurence Dixon from NADA Used Car Guide. NADA Used Car Guide is a division of the well-known J.D. Power automotive market analyst company. Dixon suggests that keeping your car in the best condition possible will help maximize its resale and trade-in value.

"Ensure all necessary services are performed and keep the records to prove it." He also said that maintenance of the interior and exterior goes a long way, too.

He explained that doing so improves the value of the car by "reducing the number of concerns or issues a potential new owner may have with the vehicle."

A car that exudes confidence to buyers certainly helps improve its value. That's why Dixon warns that certain elements of a car, like rebuilt engines, can hinder the resale of a used vehicle.

On the other hand, certain modifications or new parts like tires can help improve the resale value of a car.

> **Sometimes there's desire for a vehicle with low production values, but that had high demand.**
> Cari Crane, ALG

Things You Can't Control

Sometimes, things outside your control will affect a car's value.

The overall design of the car, cost of ownership, fuel economy relative to competitive vehicles, maintenance and repair costs, quality and dependability are all things Dixon considers when it comes to evaluating a car's resale value.

However, basic economic principles play a huge factor in terms of resale value.

"Is the quantity of vehicles demanded by consumers too low/balanced/too high?" Dixon asked.

"For example, the consumer preference for utilities and trucks is currently much stronger than it is for compact and midsize cars (two high volume segments). As a result, resale values have been weaker on cars than trucks," he explained.

He adds that a big part of this is driven by new market dynamics and strategies like how manufacturers stimulate car sales with higher incentives, which result in a higher rate of depreciation and lower resale value.

Supply and Demand

Small automakers can build a positive brand image very quickly through the way they treat supply and demand, says Cari Crane of ALG, a division of the TrueCar network, which is a service aimed at improving transparency between dealerships and consumers.

"Sometimes there's desire for a vehicle with low production values, but that had high demand," she said.

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metro SPORTS

"I haven't even thought about it": Kevin Durant on his soon-to-be free agent status after the Thunder bowed out of the playoffs Tuesday night

Blue Jays bolster bullpen

MLB

Former all-star Grilli picked up in trade with Braves

The Blue Jays attempted to close some of the holes in their bullpen with the acquisition of a former closer on Tuesday. The Jays acquired 39-year-old right-handed reliever Jason Grilli from Atlanta for 21-year-old minor-league right-hander Sean Ratcliffe, a local boy from Ajax.

The Jays also acquired cash in the deal to offset much of Grilli's contract.

Grilli, a National League all-star as recently as 2013 with the Pirates, had been struggling with the Braves in 2016, coming off surgery to repair a torn Achilles tendon and posting a record of 0-2 with a 5.29 ERA in 21 games. In 2015, prior to the injury, he posted 24 saves with a 2.94 ERA.

"There's a lot that we like about Jason and how he complements this team," Jays general manager Ross Atkins said. "The first thing that comes to mind is experience. He's been on winning teams in very high-leverage situations. He gets a ton of swing-and-miss, has got a lot of swing-and-miss in his career.

"Those are good attributes for someone to be in a bullpen. We'll see how it pans out here"

Grilli began his Braves season walking nine batters and striking out 10 in nine innings through May 1. He was given five days off and, since that time, his numbers have improved, with four walks and 13 strikeouts in eight innings. He will join the Jays on Wednesday.

"He's been trending better since his start," Atkins said. "He worked really hard to get back from that injury. Could have, potentially, come back too quick. That was his own doing. I think that could have contributed to a slower start. He's been pitching a lot better over the last few outings.

Jason Grilli GETTY IMAGES

"He could be a very helpful piece to our bullpen."

Grilli earns $3.5 million in 2016, with a club option for $3 million in 2017, with a $250,000 buyout. According to Dave O'Brien of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Jays will be responsible for about $600,000.

Grilli will bring a sublime presence in much the same way that Darren Oliver did in 2012-13 and that LaTroy Hawkins did in 2015. Both men were past their primes and in their 40s, but lent balance and perspective in an area of the major-league club that is begging for some of that.

Ratcliffe, meanwhile, was an 18th-round selection by the Blue Jays in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PILLAR PLAYS SUPERMAN IN OUTFIELD, THEN PLATE Blue Jays centre-fielder Kevin Pillar makes a diving catch against the Yankees on Tuesday night at Rogers Centre. Pillar followed up the spectacular grab with a tie-breaking single to lead Toronto to a 4-1 victory. The Jays (28-26) have won back-to-back games and six of their last seven. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEGOTIATING

Bautista: Hometown discounts unfair to players

Jays slugger Jose Bautista says he would "love" to remain in Toronto after this season, but is also intent on testing the free-agent waters.

Bautista, who is in the option year of a $78-million deal he signed in 2011, told Sports Illustrated if he does remain a Jay, he won't do so for the so-called "hometown" discount.

"I love the city," Bautista told SI. "I'd be stupid to leave."

"But," the 36-year-old added, "I will explore every single option, whether it happens or not with the new regime, to continue to try to stay here. That being said, I think teams utilize that a lot against players, (seeking) a discount or bargain price, and I think that's extremely unfair."

Jose Bautista GETTY IMAGES

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CFL

Argos QB pain-free at camp

Toronto Argonauts head coach Scott Milanovich is sleeping pretty soundly these days.

That's because veteran quarterback Ricky Ray continues to throw pain-free at the team's training camp. Ray missed most of last season recovering from off-season shoulder surgery.

The 36-year-old Californian went under the knife after playing with pain in the joint for two years. But roughly a week after reporting to the Argos — Ray joined the club's rookies last week before camp officially opened on the weekend — the three-time Grey Cup champion is experiencing no shoulder discomfort, which is great news for Milanovich.

67.7%

The six-foot-three 210-pound Ray is the most accurate passer in CFL history with a completion average of 67.7 per cent.

"His arm looks better than it has in two years to me," Milanovich said Tuesday following the third day of training camp. "It's back to the way it was when he first got here (in 2012).

"The only concern now is if it's able to stay strong throughout the season. Usually the third day (of camp) is the hardest day and he looked great. It's making it easier to sleep at night, there's no doubt."

"It just feels good to be out here participating," Ray said.

"It's just nice to be involved and not have to worry about (rehab) this year. My arm is getting a little tired like it normally does but no pain and no real soreness so I'm very pleased."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ricky Ray THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO FC

Giovinco day-to-day with adductor strain

Sebastian Giovinco's participation in Toronto FC's first Canadian Championship game of the season Wednesday against Montreal will be a game-time decision.

The striker pulled up with an adductor strain and was immediately substituted about 20 minutes into the Reds' 3-0 loss to New York Red Bulls Saturday.

An MRI identified the injury as a minor Grade 1 issue. Coach Greg Vanney called his star "day-to-day." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sebastian Giovinco THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Hitchcock to coach Blues for one more season

Ken Hitchcock has another one-year deal to coach the St. Louis Blues. The 64-year-old Hitchcock says this one will be his last.

Hitchcock said he plans to retire from coaching after the 2016-17 season because he's not willing to put in the off-season preparation necessary.

Hitchcock will be entering his sixth season with the Blues and 20th season as a head coach.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRENCH OPEN

Nos. 2, 6 in women's draw lose in the rain

Yes, they actually managed to complete a match on this wettest of weeks at the French Open. Two, even. And both involved surprises: two of the top half-dozen seeded women lost within minutes of each other, No. 2 Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 6 Simona Halep.

After their fourth-round exits Tuesday, both Radwanska and Halep complained firmly about tournament organizers' decision to make them play through drizzles — or worse — that made courts slippery and clay-caked tennis balls heavy.

"I mean, it's not a (low-tier) tournament. It's a Grand Slam. How can you allow players to play in the rain?" said Radwanska.

Radwanska dropped 10 consecutive games while being beaten 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 by 102nd-ranked Tsvetana Pironkova. Halep lost 7-6 (0), 6-3 to No. 21 Sam Stosur in a contest between two past finalists at Roland Garros. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Israeli Couscous Pilaf

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Its worth the effort to look for this larger-grained variety of couscous, it gives this vegetarian pilaf heft and a great texture.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp of olive oil
- 1 cup, whole grain Israeli couscous
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup chopped cucumber
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped tomato
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta
- 1 small handful chopped mint
- 1 small handful chopped parsley
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/8 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp Dijon
- 1 tsp honey
- salt and pepper

Directions

1. In a pot, bring olive oil to a medium heat. Add the onions and let soften and start to brown. Add the couscous and stir to cover in oil. Stir often and let the couscous absorb the oil for about three to five minutes.

2. Stir in stock and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and allow to simmer for about 15 minutes, until the couscous is al dente.

3. Toss together the chopped vegetables, feta, mint and parsley. Add the cooked couscous and stir together.

4. In a small bowl, whisk the olive oil, vinegar, Dijon, honey and salt and pepper. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

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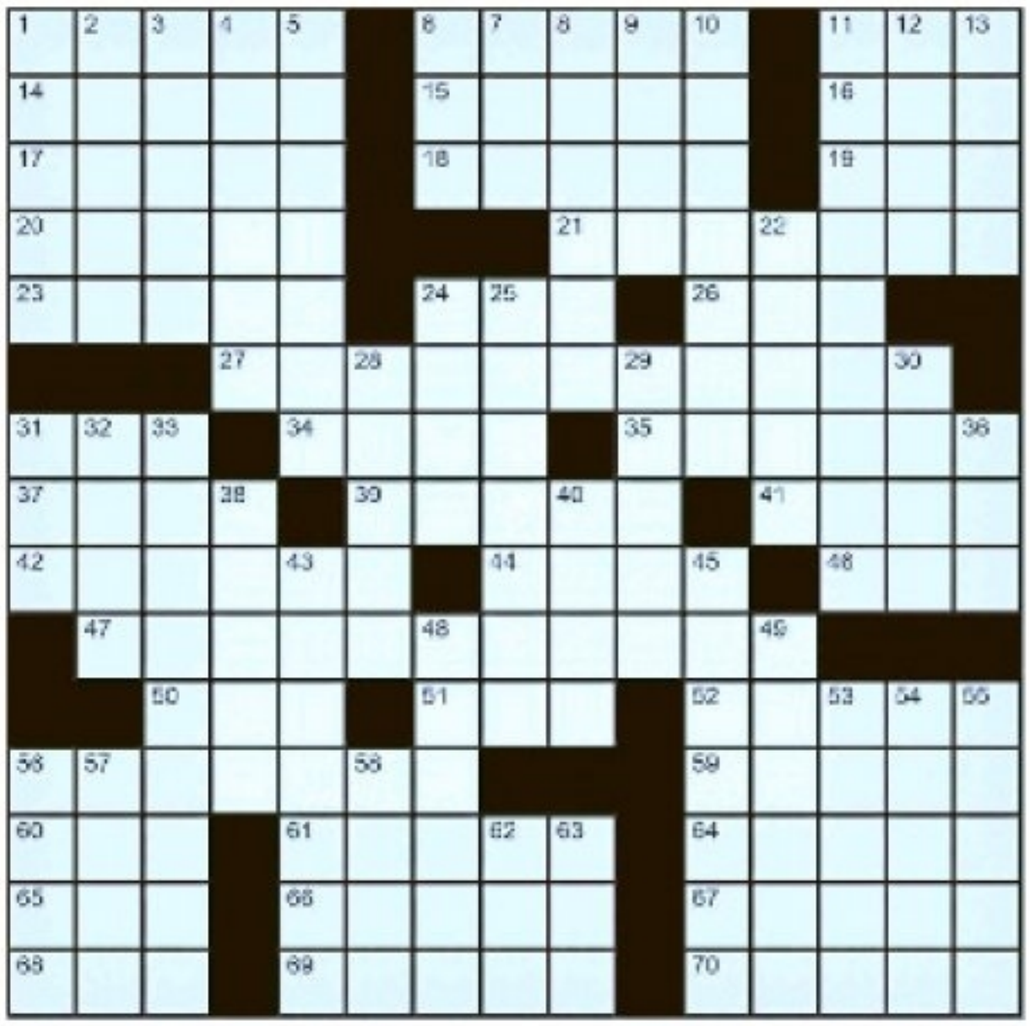
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Bluff
6. "Born to Be Wild" enthusiast
11. "That's MY rawhide!"
14. Award, States-style
15. Duck
16. Canuck financial inst.
17. Lumberjack's tool, just one: 2 wds.
18. Works the bar
19. All-you-can-__
20. Property separator
21. Restaurant staff
23. Montgomery Clift's biopic title role in 1962
24. Spencer Davis Group's "__ Man"
26. Lair
27. Canada-USA crossing gig: 2 wds.
31. Kiev's land [abbr.]
34. __ 18 (WWII-set novel by Leon Uris)
35. Gasping-in-horror motion
37. Pinocchio-ed
39. Dance garb fabric
41. Hoisted, nautical-style
42. Open the documents marked CLASSIFIED
44. Camera lovers
46. Converged
47. Smoked meat deli in Montreal: 2 wds.
50. Eliminate
51. "Cabaret" (1972) actress ...her initials-sharers
52. Digs
56. __ of the Seas (World's largest cruise ship)
59. That place
60. Bart Simpson's grandfather
61. Empty environs
64. Enjoy the meal: 2 wds.
65. "The Voice" broadcaster
66. Boredom
67. Build buildings
68. Capture
69. Thesaurus compiler, Peter Mark __ (b.1779 - d.1869)
70. Wheezing noises

DOWN
1. Brit-style banter
2. Solo party planner
3. Absurd
4. Young animal in the forest: 2 wds.
5. "__! '90": George Michael's music video featuring supermodels including Canada's Linda Evangelista
6. Casino wager
7. 'Excess' ending
8. Amber __ (Co-host of BNN's innovative businesses show "The Disruptors" ...more at #54-Down)
9. Norse story
10. Slag or dreg
11. TV talk show's waiting spot pre-interview: 2 wds.
12. "The Roy Rogers Show" setting, Double __ Ranch
13. Store returns proofs [abbr.]
22. Impart knowledge
24. Lazily
25. Saskatchewan village a half hour east of Saskatoon
28. Streamlets
29. Prefix to 'phone' (Antique record player)
30. Start the scuba-ing
31. Arctic knife
32. Variety
33. Rise up the Phoenix
36. Sanction
38. Casual-wear choice
40. NFL players in Los Angeles
43. Perth-__, New Brunswick
45. Not as blatant
48. Rita MacNeil's "__ on Your Own"
49. Super sandy site
53. Ward off
54. As per #8-Down ..."The Disruptors" co-host Mr. Croxon
55. Sevens, in Sherbrooke
56. "__ Ten" by Canadian singer Edwin
57. Superior at a French monastery
58. __!__! (Hair removal tool advertised on TV)
62. "__ South"
63. Be a portrait model

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't worry about spending a lot of time daydreaming today; it is what it is. Be clear in all your communications, because it's easy to be confused today.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day for major expenditures or important financial decisions. It's also a poor day to shop for anything other than food or gas. Protect your wealth.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It's normal to feel your energy is low today. Sleep in or take a nap if you can. Don't push yourself, because this is the kind of day to take it easy. Don't expect too much from others, either.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Secrets might come out today. If so, do not be quick to believe them. As Churchill once said, "There are a lot of lies going around, and some of them are true."

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you're involved with a group of people today, don't be pushy. People will change their mind a lot, because nobody is quite sure what they want. It happens.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a poor day to ask bosses and authority figures for permission or approval. Nothing will turn out the way you think. Wait until tomorrow.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You long to escape somewhere today. You want to get away from all this. If dreams were horses, then beggars would ride.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Despite your interest in shared property, taxes and inheritances at the moment, this is a poor day to make decisions regarding these matters. Furthermore, don't believe everything you hear.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have to compromise with others today. However, if people seem confused, do nothing. Tomorrow is a better day to act. Just coast today.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be hard on yourself if you don't accomplish too much at work today. Some days are productive; some days are not. This is one of them.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is the perfect day to kick back and relax. Enjoy sports events, the arts and playful times with kids. Sneak away on a fun outing, if you can.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Postpone important family discussions until tomorrow. Family members, especially parents and authority figures are indecisive and possibly confusing.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

2								7
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8								4

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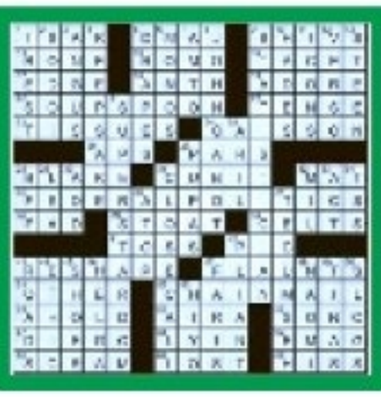
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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6	9	4	2	3	7	8	1	5
2	1	5	4	8	9	6	3	7
1	8	9	7	6	4	3	5	2
4	7	6	3	5	2	9	8	1
3	5	2	8	9	1	4	7	6

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